

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5050

RUDOC FOR BEWT FOR DOWNEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: GDR PRESSES FOR LEIPZIG VISIT BY UNDER SECRETARY BAKER

1. AT A SOCIAL OCCASION JANUARY 9, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE DIRECTOR GENERAL KIRSTEN EXPRESSED STRONG GDR INTEREST IN RECEIVING COMMERCE UNDER SECRETARY BAKER AT THE SPRING 1976 LEIPZIG FAIR (MARCH 14-21). IN A CLEARLY AUTHORITATIVE PRESENTATION OF GDR VIEWS, KIRSTEN ASKED THAT THE U.S. EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF UNDER SECRETARY BAKER'S COMING, AND ASKED OUR ADVICE ON A CHANNEL FOR EXTENDING A SPECIFIC INVITATION TO UNDER SECRETARY BAKER TO VISIT THE SPRING FAIR.

2. GUIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S REPORTS OF THE BEIL VISIT AND SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES, EMBASSY OFFICERS DID NOT ENCOURAGE KIRSTEN TO THINK IN TERMS OF A VISIT BY UNDER SECRETARY BAKER, AND SAID WE UNDERSTOOD DR. BEIL HAD BEEN TOLD THAT UNDER SECRETARY BAKER WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO TRAVEL IN THE FAIR TIME FRAME. DESPITE SUCH ARGUMENTS, KIRSTEN PERSISTED, ARGUING THAT THE LARGE U.S. COMMERCIAL AND INFORMATION EXHIBIT PLANNED FOR LEIPZIG SUGGESTED THE APPROPRIATENESS OF A U.S. VISITOR OF UNDER SECRETARY BAKER'S RANK.

3. GIVEN PRESENT GDR STANCES ON VARIOUS BILATERAL ISSUES WHICH WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN RECENT TELEGRAMS, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SENDING A SENIOR WASHINGTON OFFICIAL TO LEIPZIG WOULD
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NOT BE IN THE UNITED STATES INTEREST. RATHER THAN INDU-

CING GREATER GDR FLEXIBILITY, WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT REIN-
FORCE GDR INCLINATIONS TOWARD INTRANSIGENCE ON QUESTIONS
OF IMPORTANCE TO US.

4. THE EMBASSY WAS THEREFORE GRATIFIED TO RECEIVE
JANUARY 13 UNDER SECRETARY BAKER'S LETTER OF JANUARY 5
TO DR. BEIL WHICH WE PROMPTLY FORWARDED, AND TO WHICH WE
PROPOSE TO REFER IF THE GDR AGAIN RAISES THE QUESTION OF
A BAKER VISIT.COOPER

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